

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/002,941

Applicant(s)

BONI, CHRISTOPHER

Examiner

John B. Walsh

Art Unit

2151

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment of 6/20/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,9-15,17,20-24 and 26-36.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

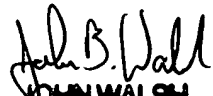
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOHN WALSH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Friscia on August 24, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

- a. Claim 10, line 1 – replace “claim 7” with --claim 5--.
- b. Claim 17, line 1 – replace “claim 16” with --claim 15--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6, 9-15, 17, 20-24 and 26-36 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed in detail wherein a second loop interconnectable at one of a plurality of locations along the second end of the strap, a lock for interconnecting the second loop at the one of the plurality of locations of the second end of the strap and for locking the size of the second loop (claim 1); a strap adjustable in size for connecting the first and second loops, a tether interconnected with the strap for attachment to a fixed object, a lock (claim 5); a tether attached to the strap, providing a stopper on the tether and securing the tether to a fixed object by extending the tether through an open car window to

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position the stopper within the car and raising the window to secure the stopper within the car to fix an elongate object to a car (claim 15); a locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising a tether, a stopper interconnected with the tether strap, the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether, whereby the stopper is positionable within a car window and the window can be raised against the tether strap to retain the stopper within the vehicle to lock the surfboard to a car (claim 20); a locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop, the tether strap formed of an excess length of flexible material that forms the adjustable loop, and a stopper interconnected with the tether strap, whereby the stopper is positionable within a car window and the window can be raised against the tether strap to retain the stopper within the vehicle to lock the surfboard to a car (claim 23); a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop, a stopper interconnected with the tether, wherein the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether (claim 24); a tether interconnected with the strap, the tether extending from one of the loops, for attachment to a fixed object, a lock (claim 27); a tether attached to the strap, securing the tether to a fixed object by extending the tether about a fixed object and locking an end of the tether to the strap (claim 33); a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop, a stopper interconnected with the tether strap, wherein the strap is formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop (claim 35).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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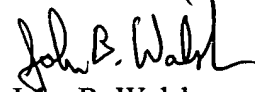
Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday from 5:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571-272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John B. Walsh
Primary Examiner
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